Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for the treatment of accelerated bone resorption in a mammal subject, the method comprises administering to said subject in need of said treatment an amount of an A_3 adenosine receptor agonist (A_3AR agonist), the amount being effective to inhibit bone resorption.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human subject.

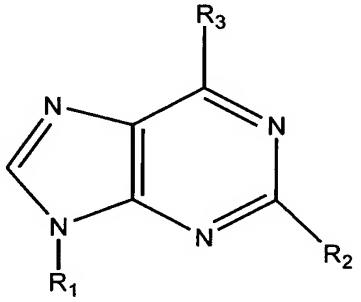
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, for the treatment of inflammation induced bone resorption.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, for the treatment of bone resorption induced by inflammatory arthritis.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said treatment comprises oral administration of A_3AR agonist to said subject in need.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said treatment comprises administration of A_3RA agonist to said subject once or twice daily.

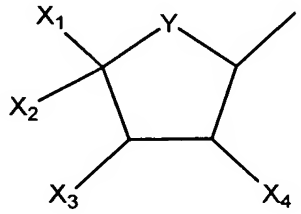
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said A_3AR agonist is a compound within the scope of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein,

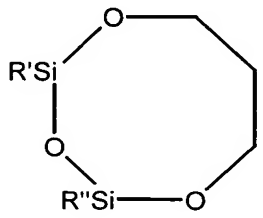
- $\mathbf{R_1}$ represents an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl or cyanoalkyl or a group of the following general formula (II):



(II)

in which:

- **Y** represents an oxygen, sulfur or CH_2;
- $\mathbf{X_1}$ represents H, alkyl, $R^aR^bNC(=O)-$ or HOR^c-, wherein
  - $\mathbf{R^a}$ and $\mathbf{R^b}$ may be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, amino, haloalkyl, aminoalkyl, BOC-aminoalkyl, and cycloalkyl or are joined together to form a heterocyclic ring containing two to five carbon atoms; and
  - $\mathbf{R^c}$ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, amino, haloalkyl, aminoalkyl, BOC-aminoalkyl, and cycloalkyl;
- $\mathbf{X_2}$ is H, hydroxyl, alkylamino, alkylamido or hydroxyalkyl;
- $\mathbf{X_3}$ and $\mathbf{X_4}$ represent independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, amido, azido, halo, alkyl, alkoxy, carboxy, nitrilo, nitro, trifluoro, aryl, alkaryl, thio, thioester, thioether, -OCOPh, -OC(=S)OPh or both $\mathbf{X_3}$ and $\mathbf{X_4}$ are oxygens connected to >C=S to form a 5-membered ring, or $\mathbf{X_2}$ and $\mathbf{X_3}$ form the ring of formula (III):



(III)

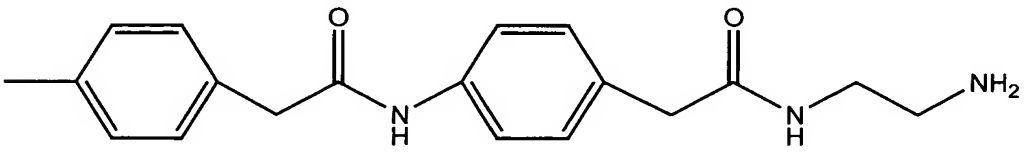
where **R'** and **R''** represent independently an alkyl group;

- $\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, alkylether, amino, hydrazido, alkylamino, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, pyridylthio, alkenyl; alkynyl, thio, and alkylthio; and

- $\mathbf{R_3}$ is a group of the formula $-NR_4R_5$ wherein

- $\mathbf{R_4}$ is a hydrogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl or aryl-NH-C(Z)-, with **Z** being O, S, or NR^a with $\mathbf{R^a}$ having the above meanings; wherein when $\mathbf{R_4}$ is hydrogen ~~than~~ then

- $\mathbf{R_5}$ is selected from the group consisting of R- and S-1-phenylethyl, benzyl, phenylethyl or anilide groups unsubstituted or substituted in one or more positions with a substituent selected from the group consisting of alkyl, amino, halo, haloalkyl, nitro, hydroxyl, acetoamido, alkoxy, and sulfonic acid or a salt thereof; benzodioxanemethyl, fururyl, L-propylalanyl- aminobenzyl, β-alanylamino- benzyl, T-BOC-β-alanylaminobenzyl, phenylamino, carbamoyl, phenoxy or cycloalkyl; or R_5 is a group of the following formula:

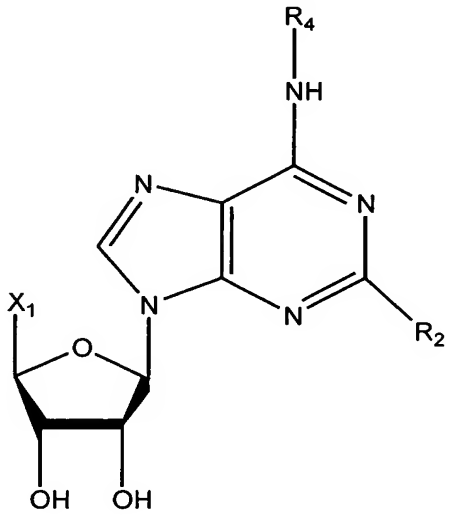


or when $\mathbf{R_4}$ is an alkyl or aryl-NH-C(Z)-, then, $\mathbf{R_5}$ is selected from the group consisting of heteroaryl-NR^a-C(Z)-, heteroaryl-C(Z)-, alkaryl-NR^a-C(Z)-, alkaryl-C(Z)-, aryl-NR-

C(Z)- and aryl-C(Z)-; **Z** representing an oxygen, ~~sulfor~~ sulfur or amine;

or a physiologically acceptable salt of the above compound.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said A_3AR agonist is a nucleoside derivative of the general formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein

X_1 represents H, alkyl, $R^aR^bNC(=O)$- or HOR^c-, wherein

- **R^a** and **R^b** may be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, amino, haloalkyl, aminoalkyl, BOC-aminoalkyl, and cycloalkyl or are joined together to form a heterocyclic ring containing two to five carbon atoms; and
- **R^c** is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, amino, haloalkyl, aminoalkyl, BOC-aminoalkyl, and cycloalkyl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, alkylether, amino, hydrazido, alkylamino, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, pyridylthio, alkenyl; alkynyl, thio, and alkylthio; and

R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a group selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl or aryl-NH-C(Z)-, with **Z** being O, S, or NR^a with R^a having the above meanings ~~are as defined in claim 3~~,

and physiologically acceptable salts of said compound.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said A_3AR agonist is selected from N^6-2- (4-aminophenyl)ethyladenosine (APNEA), N^6-(4-amino-3-iodobenzyl) adenosine- 5'-(N-methyluronamide) (AB-MECA), N^6-(3-iodobenzyl)-adenosine-5'-N-methyluronamide (IB-MECA) and 2-chloro-N^6-(3-iodobenzyl)-adenosine-5'-N-methyluronamide (Cl-IB-MECA).

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.

Claim 11-19 (Cancelled).